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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Angel L. Berrios from Severn, MD.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, we take time to acknowledge Your presence here with us right now. We humbly come to You in prayer, believing that You alone are the one and only true God, sovereign, and almighty. Forgive us our shortcomings and disobediences, and honor our faith and sincere efforts to serve You.

We pray for each Senator that the Holy Spirit would give them wisdom and guidance to make right decisions for every issue that is presented in this session.

Father, we affirm that our Nation belongs to You; therefore, we as a people also yield ourselves to You, to Your will, so that we can bring glory and honor to Your kingdom. Thank You for Your daily mercies and grace upon each of us.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, following any time Senator MCCONNELL and I may use, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 10:30. We need to start at that time. There is so much left on the Defense authorization bill. The time in morning business is equally divided and controlled between the two sides; the majority will control the first portion. Following that, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill with debate continuing on the Cornyn amendment.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2070

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that S. 2070 is at the desk and due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2070) to prevent Government shutdowns.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:30, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally controlled and divided by the two sides, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the final 30 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESEGREGATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, September 25, 2007, marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most important days in our country's history and certainly one of the most important days in the history of our State of Arkansas. On that day in 1957, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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